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basic imagery interpretation report

Kharkov Possible Silo R&D Facility (S)

STRATEGIC WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

USSR

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WNINTEL

Z-14559/82
RCA-09/0010/82
MAY 1982
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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME					COUNTRY
Kharkov Possible Silo Research and Development Facility					UR
UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	CATEGORY	BE NO.	COMIREX NO.	NIETB NO.
NA	50-03-00N 036-16-40E				
MAP REFERENCE					
DMAAC. USATC, Series 200, Sheet 0234-12, scale 1:200,000					
LATEST IMAGERY USED			NEGATION DATE (If required)		
See Abstract			NA		

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ABSTRACT

1. (S/WN) This report describes activity at Kharkov Possible Silo Research and Development Facility, USSR, from [] the information cutoff date. It updates a previous NPIC report, [].
2. (S/WN) Significant construction activity included the completion of a ground support equipment (GSE) training hole, a type IIIF (SS-18) training silo, and several garages for SS-18-associated GSE. This facility has been reassessed to be a Strategic Rocket Forces cadre training facility for SS-9 and SS-18 ICBM systems.
3. (U) This report includes a location map, one annotated photograph, and one table.

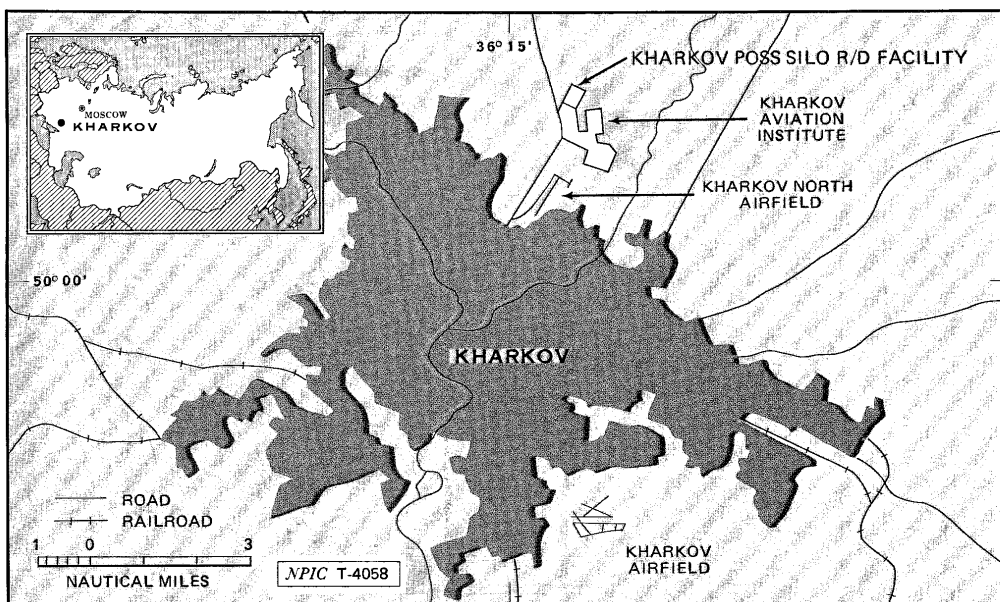
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25X1**INTRODUCTION**

4. (S/WN) The Kharkov Possible Silo Research and Development (R&D) Facility is in the northern suburbs of Kharkov at the northern edge of the Kharkov Aviation Institute [] Figure 1). The facility is road and rail served and contains two ICBM training silos and approximately 50 structures. Of the three principal areas of the facility, only the support area appears not to be completely enclosed by a security wall or fence with access controlled at security checkpoints.

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5. (S/WN) This installation has been reassessed to be a probable training facility for Strategic Rocket Forces (SRF) SS-9 and SS-18 crew cadre. It probably receives logistical support from the adjacent Kharkov Aviation Institute.

(Continued p. 4)

**FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF KHAROV POSSIBLE SILO R&D FACILITY, USSR**WNINTEL
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Table 1.
Structures at Kharkov Possible Silo Research and
Development Facility, [REDACTED]
(Items Keyed to Figure 2)

This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WNINTEL

Item No	Probable Function	Dimensions (m)		Floorspace (sq m)	First Observed Ucon	First Observed Complete	Remarks
		L	H				
1	Control bldg					*	
2	Utility					*	
3	Utility					Oct 76**	
4	SS-18 ICBM training silo				Oct 76	Jul 79	Only a small part of apron remained to be completed and was by Sep 79
5	Site support bldg					Oct 76**	
6	SS-9 ICBM training silo					*	
7	Personnel access bldg					*	
8	Utility					*	
9	Security bldg				*		A watch tower with total height of 5m projects above center of bldg
10a	Garage				Oct 76	Jun 81	Bldg is connected by buried cable to electrical substation
b	Maint sect				Oct 76	Jun 81	
11	Utility				Sep 80	Feb 81	
12	Garage				Oct 76	Sep 77	
13	Garage				Oct 76	Sep 77	
14a	Garage					*	
b	Addition				Sep 77	Jul 78	
15	Vehicle maint shop					*	Bldg has 5 sects; height shown is for largest sect
16	Garage					*	
17	Storage					*	
18	Admin/classrooms					*	3 stories
19	Garage					*	
20	GSE training hole				Jan 74	Jan 75	
21	Poss GSE training bldg					*	Height shown is for highest sect; bldg will have 9 sects when sect a is complete; admin/technical spt sects on the east and west sides of bldg are 2 stories
a	Addition ucon				Jun 79	Ucon	
22	Support				Oct 76	Dec 77	
23	Shop					*	Bldg has 6 sects; height shown is for largest sect
a	Addition				Apr 77	Dec 77	
24	Garage					*	
25	Storage					*	Height shown is for highest part of roof which slopes severely
26	Storage					*	
27	Utility					*	
28	Utility					*	
29	Utility					*	
30	Support					*	
31	Security bldg					*	
32	Support				Apr 77	Oct 77	
33	Utility					Jan 74**	
34	Utility					*	
35	Heat/steampant					*	Bldg has 4 sects; height is for highest sect
36	Storage					*	
37	Prob bldg ucon				Aug 78	Ucon	
38	Utility					*	
39	Utility				Jan 75	Aug 77	
40	Utility				May 77	Dec 77	
41a	Heat/steampant				Jan 75	Aug 75	
b	Tech sup sect				Jan 75	Aug 75	
42	Utility				Oct 76	Apr 77	
43	Storage					*	
44	Storage					*	
45	Admin					*	
46	Barracks					*	4 stories
Floorspace added since Nov 73							
Total floorspace as of [REDACTED]							

* Completed prior to [REDACTED]
 ** Complete when first observed.

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SECRET**BASIC DESCRIPTION****Silo Training Area**

6. (S/WN) Construction began on the type IIIF training silo in the summer of 1976. By October 1976, initial excavation was underway for the silo and two utility buildings (items 2 and 3, Figure 2 and Table 1) were essentially complete as was approximately 50 percent of the silo's access apron. Subsequently, construction of the silo progressed at a slow rate until its completion in July 1979, a period of 33 months. Available imagery was inadequate to determine if the silo was full or partial depth. The 33-month construction time, however, strongly suggests that this is a full-depth silo since 21 to 24 months is the established normal construction time for a type IIIF silo.

7. (S/WN) Training commenced following the completion of the silo and has consisted of simulated silo loading/unloading and propellant loading exercises. The training activity involved the use of SS-18-associated GSE, including canister transporters, MAZ-543 transporters, silo loaders, and multisystem propellant transporters. Other equipment involved in training exercises included a MAZ-543 [] probable communications van and a Ural-375 support van.

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8. (S/WN) At the SS-9 training silo (item 6), propellant loading and silo maintenance training exercises have been observed less frequently during the last few years and it appears that such activity will be completely phased out. Evidence supporting this conclusion include the removal in 1980 of an SS-9 load simulator/training device that had been present in the GSE training and storage area since 1972, the absence of SS-9 first- and second-stage transporters since May 1980, the apparent cessation in December 1979 of SS-9-related activity at the GSE training hole (item 20) in the GSE training and storage area, and the removal of some of the components of the SS-9-associated BEVERAGE antenna. The apparent cessation of SS-9-related training activity at this facility is concurrent with the conversion of type IIIC silos to type IIIF silos at deployed complexes and Tyuratam Missile and Space Test Center []

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GSE Training and Storage Area

9. (S/WN) In the GSE training and storage area, training was limited to SS-9 silo loading/unloading procedures at the GSE training hole that was constructed between January 1974 and January 1975. Other additions to this area included three garages (items 10a and b, 12, and 13) for SS-18-associated GSE. The garages were constructed concurrently with the type IIIF silo and several additions to existing buildings. An addition (item 21a) to the possible GSE training building was under construction at the end of this reporting period. Although the function of this building has not been confirmed, the dimensions of the high-bay section, [] would allow it to accommodate the operation of any of the GSE at the facility. The other large part of the building, a probable shop/training section, could easily support GSE maintenance and repair training. The construction of a traveling gantry crane between June and October 1981 on the service apron adjacent to the possible GSE training building suggests that it is now engaged in a new activity involving large/heavy pieces of equipment.

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10. (S/WN) In May 1981, three objects identified as type B transition segments for the type IIIF silo were at the southwestern corner of the possible GSE training building. At SS-18-deployed complexes, a silo modification program involves the replacement of the original type A silo wall transition segments (located between the upper end of the silo wall and the bottom of the headworks base) with type B transition segments. Although no such activity has been observed at the type IIIF silo at this facility, the presence of the transition segments suggests that it will eventually be modified.

Support Area

11. (S/WN) The most significant new addition in this area is the large heat/steam plant (item 41a and b) constructed between January and August 1975. This new plant, with a far greater capacity than the original heat/steam plant (item 35) will, in addition to serving this facility, provide heat/steam to nearby new buildings that are a part of the Kharkov Aviation Institute. Also new to this area is an SRF obstacle course constructed between April and September 1977 and several small support and utility buildings.

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/WN) All available satellite imagery acquired between [] the information 25X1
cutoff date, was used in the preparation of this report.

MAP OR CHART

DMAAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0234-12, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET, [] 25X1
[] 25X1

*Extracted material is [] 25X1

RELATED DOCUMENT

1. NPIC. [] RCA-09/0037/73, *Kharkov Aviation Institute*, Mar 73 (TOP SECRET [] 25X1

REQUIREMENTS

COMIREX J02
Project 542038J
Distribution 86-004

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Soviet 25X1
Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [] 25X1

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